

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04844 111656Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 028703

O 111557Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4785

S E C R E T PANAMA 4844

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND ASST. SEC. ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO TORRIJOS

REF: STATE 189243

1. ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL YESTERDAY EVENING, I CALLED TORRIJOS AND ASKED TO SEE HIM. HE SAID WE COULD MEET IN HALF AN HOUR AT THE HOME OF GABRIEL LEWIS, BUSINESSMAN-CONFIDANTE. AFTER CORDIAL PRELIMINARIES, I DELIVERED ORALLY MESSAGE CONTAINED PARA. 4.

2. TORRIJOS EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT THE NEWS THAT BUNKER WAS TO RETURN SOON TO PANAMA. HE ASKED ME TO TELL THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME HERE AND THAT HE COULD BE ASSURED OF A WARM AND FRIENDLY RECEPTION. HE INDICATED THAT THE NEWS WOULD HAVE A HIGHLY FAVORABLE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION HERE AND IMPLIED IT WOULD EASE CONSIDERABLY THE HEAVY AND GROWING PRESSURE HE HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO BY CRITICS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THE SOONER BUNKER COULD COME THE BETTER IT WOULD BE SINCE OVER THE PAST MONTHS CRITICISM AND PESSIMISM HAD INCREASED ALMOST DAILY.

3. TORRIJOS ASKED IF THE NEWS COULD BE MADE PUBLIC. I SAID WE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO HIS USING IT. WE THEN DIS-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04844 111656Z

CUSSED WHAT SHOULD BE SAID AND HE CALLED HIS PRINCIPAL

ADVISER ON NEWS MATTERS, MARIO VELASQUEZ OF TV CHANNEL 2,
TO JOIN OUR SESSION. ON THE LATTER'S ARRIVAL, TORRIJOS
AND VELASQUEZ DISCUSSED WHAT SHOULD BE SAID. THAT WAS AT
7 P.M. THE NEWS BULLETIN WAS AIRED AS A SPECIAL ITEM AT
8 P.M. AND AGAIN AT 9 P.M. THIS RAPID HANDLING WAS THE
CLEAREST POSSIBLE INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE TORRIJOS
ATTACHED TO THE INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED. HE THANKED
ME WARMLY AND ASKED THAT HIS THANKS ALSO BE EXPRESSED TO
PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND TO ALL WHO PLAYED
A ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS DECISION.
JORDEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PANAMA04844
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750276-1087
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750864/aaaacehz.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 189243
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO TORRIJOS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, US, PANAMA CANAL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006